

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00438 310405 Z

14

ACTION AF-18

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R 300858 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 675

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E. O. 11652: DECON DEC 31, 1973

TAGS: PFOR, SO, UG, TZ, ET

SUBJ: SOMALI COMMENTARY ON UGANDA- TANZANIA DISPUTE

1. RADIO MOGADISCIO COMMENTARY MARCH 29 DEALS WITH UGANDA-TANZANIA DISPUTE. COMMENTARY POINTS OUT THAT SOMALIA, IN ACTING AS MEDIATOR, HAS NO AXE TO GRIND OTHER THAN TO RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS IN EAST AFRICA. SOMALIA'S OWN ECONOMIC INTERESTS HARMED BY CONFLICT IN EAST AFRICA. MORE IMPORTANTLY SUCH CONFLICT DAMAGES PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IS GODSEND TO LISBON, PRETORIA AND SALISBURY. AFRICAN UNITY WILL BE EXPOSED AS SHAM AND OTHER NATIONS COME TO "WHOLLY TENABLE CONCLUSION" THAT AFRICA LONG WAY FROM POLITICAL MATURITY.

2. COMMENTARY QUOTES SIAD STATEMENT THAT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES "NO RPT NO CAUSE WAS WORTH WAR, HOWEVER EARTH SHAKING IT MAY LOOK TO PARTIES CONCERNED." AFRICAN LEADERS BEAR HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY TO RESOLVE "PROBLEMS THAT DIVIDE US." THIS CAN BE DONE GIVEN PATIENCE, WISDOM AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00438 310405 Z

EM COMMENTARY CONCLUDES WITH REFERENCE TO CURRENT VISIT OF SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ALI ABOKAR TO UGANDA AND TANZANIA. MESSAGES WHICH HE CARRIES FROM SIAD ARE " ACCEPTED VOICE OF AN AFRICA WHICH DREADS REPEAT PERFORMANCE OF LAST SEPTEMBER'S EVENTS." SOMALIA WILL SPARE NO EFFORTS TO RESTORE BROTHERHOOD, COOPERATION AND AMITY TO TWO STATES WHICH SOMALIA HOLDS IN HIGH REGARD.

4. COMMENT: BROADCAST, WHICH OBVIOUSLY APPROVED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GSDR, APPEARS TO REFLECT GROWING SOMALI CONCERN OVER CURRENT STATE UGANDAN- TANZANIAN RELATIONS. STRONG PITCH FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES OBVIOUSLY INSERTED WITH SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN AS WELL AS UGANDA- TANZANIA RELATIONS IN MIND. LOORAM

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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